



December 15, 2005

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Ms. Sunne Wright McPeak  
Secretary  
California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dr. Alan C. Lloyd  
Secretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretaries McPeak and Lloyd,

As chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, President of the California State Association of Counties, and Co-Chair of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, I want to thank you for your commitment to goods movement and infrastructure improvement throughout California. As an elected official representing the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, I understand the importance of improving infrastructure to ensure the movement of goods, congestion relief, and cleaner air for all of us to breathe.

State Route 99 (SR-99), the major north-south corridor in the Golden State, is a vital link in any goods movement plan. SR-99 ensures that California's economy is robust and that our people are fed, and is considered by many to be the Valley's Main Street. And, like a small-town main street, SR-99 must continue to be a vibrant, convenient, safe, well planned, and indispensable corridor. However, more than 20 percent of the traffic on SR-99 today consists of large trucks tasked with moving goods and products across both the state and the nation. Yet, despite this heavy traffic load, significant air quality concerns, and an explosion of growth along the route, not one segment of SR-99 has been widened to six lanes in Tulare County. This situation understandably creates a traffic bottleneck, which delays truck traffic and contributes greatly to poor air quality as big rigs idle in the congested lanes.

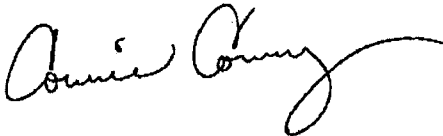
Your work on the Goods Movement Action Plan acknowledges this critical situation, and I want to thank you for recognizing the need to promote the completion of some long overdue widening projects in Tulare County. On behalf of Tulare County, the San Joaquin Valley, and California's counties, I also want to urge the working group to continue to place a high priority on funding for critical SR-99 improvement projects as you move forward with the Goods Movement Action Plan.

In fact, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government have unanimously agreed upon the need for California to

invest \$6 billion over the next ten years to finance improvements to the SR-99 corridor as identified in the Highway 99 Business Plan. To provide economic and infrastructure improvements to select areas of the state without prioritizing funding for SR-99 – a critical link in the goods movement chain – could prove disastrous to the state's economy, environment, and vitality.

Tulare County supports the efforts of the Goods Movement Action Plan Integrating Work Group, and looks forward to continuing to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure the completion of timely and overdue improvements to SR-99, and thus a brighter future for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connie Conway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Connie Conway  
Chair, Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
President, California State Association of Counties  
Co-Chair, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Cc: Assembly Member Juan Arambula